

Commission News

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Nell Hughes inducted into Southeast Hall of Fame

WILLIAMSBURG, VA—Nell Hughes, Simpson Co. Commissioner, was one of 10 leaders inducted into the Southeast Region Hall of Fame on Aug. 6, 2018, during the 2018 Conservation Hall of Fame Luncheon in Williamsburg, VA.

The Hall of Fame recognizes individuals from the nine-state, two-territory region who have made significant contributions

to soil and water conservation to ensure proper management of our nation's natural resources. Each state and territory may nominate one individual for the award each year.

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) is the nonprofit organization that represents America's 3,000 conservation districts and the 17,000 men and women who serve on their governing boards.



Nell Hughes, center, accepts her award for induction into the Southeast Hall of Fame.



Mississippi attendees at NACD Summer Meeting 2018

Pictured from left to right: MSWCC Executive Director Mark Gilbert, MACD Past President Gary Blair, MACD President Pete Hunter, Simpson Co. Commissioner and NACD Southeast Hall of Fame inductee Nell Hughes, Simpson Co. Clerk Edith Wallace, MACD Second Vice President Anita Cowan, MACD First Vice President Jerry Smith, MACD Secretary-Treasurer Hope Daley, and MSWCC Administrative Assistant Geana Keys.

Oxford team finishes eighth place at NCF-Envirothon

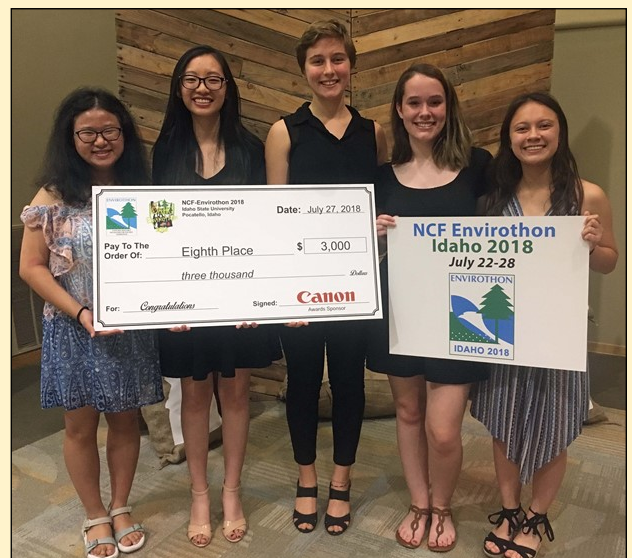
POCATELLO, ID—Oxford High School placed eighth overall out of 50 teams at the 2018 NCF-Envirothon international competition held on Friday, July 27, at Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho. This year, high school teams from 43 states, five Canadian provinces, and two teams from China participated in the NCF Envirothon.

Oxford High School placed first in the Mississippi Envirothon Competition in order to progress to the international competition.

Out of a possible total of 700 points, less than 20 points separated the Oxford team from the first-place team from New York.

A program of the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission, the 2018 Mississippi Area and State competitions included 57 teams, with 324 students in the competitions, and 60 teacher/advisors on-site who worked with the teams to prepare them for the Envirothon.

The Mississippi Envirothon is funded by a grant from the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.



Oxford High School Envirothon Team placed eighth at NCF-Envirothon and received \$3,000 in scholarship funds, divided among team members. Pictured, left to right: Calendula Cheng, Joanna Bu, Raina Woolworth, Sadie Pasco-Pranger and Sienna Cizdziel. PHOTO BY C. GAZAWAY, MSWCC

NRCS State Conservation Engineer Scott Culberson dead at age 53

BRANDON—Bobby Scott Culberson, 53, NRCS State Conservation Engineer for Mississippi, died on Aug. 3, 2018, at Merit Health Hospital in Brandon.

A native of Jackson, he graduated from Jackson Prep and Mississippi State University with a bachelor of science degree in Civil Engineering.



SCOTT CULBERSON

He began his career with NRCS as a student trainee in the Canton Project Engineer office. After graduation, he worked in the Mississippi State office design section, becoming the head of the department.

In May 2012, he was appointed State Conservation Engineer.

An avid hunter, Culberson enjoyed spending time at his deer camp. He was a huge MSU sports fan.

He is survived by his wife, Denna Clark Culberson; his mother, Beverly Culberson Varner; and two children, Ashlan Nicole Culberson and Christan Erin Culberson.

Services for Culberson were held Aug. 5 at Ott & Lee Funeral Home in Brandon.

The family requests memorial contributions be made to any conservation efforts for the MS Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

Annie Jones, NRCS employee, dies July 23 in Columbus, MS

COLUMBUS — Annie Marie Vaughn Jones, 36, died July 23, 2018. Services for Jones were held July 28 at Missionary Union Baptist Church followed by burial at Memorial Gardens. Lee-Sykes Funeral Home handled arrangements.



ANNIE JONES

A native of Yazoo City, she was a 2000 graduate of Yazoo City High School and attended Alcorn State University. Jones was employed with USDA/NRCS.

She is survived by her husband, Roland Jones Jr.; sons, Brayden and Bryce Jones, both of Columbus, and Tavarious Jones of Coffeeville; her parents, Jessie and Vernice Vaughn; and a sister, Sherrie Monston of Yazoo City.



MSU hosts Forage Field Day at Leveck Farm

MISSISSIPPI STATE — Forty people attended a Forage Field Day at the Henry H. Leveck Research Farm, 70 Agronomy Road, on Tuesday, July 17.

The free event was hosted by MSU, and offered topics including grazing systems, fertility, alfalfa production, economics, weed control and insect control.

—Jeff Wilson, MSWCC

\$12 billion in aid OK'd to help farmers affected by tariffs

WASHINGTON D.C. — On July 24, 2018, the government announced a \$12-billion plan to assist farmers who have been hurt by trade disputes with China and other trading partners.

The plan, which the USDA will administer as a three-part program, is authorized through the Commodity Credit Corporation and does not require congressional approval.

Market Facilitation Program will provide payments to producers of soybeans, sorghum, cotton, corn, wheat, dairy and pork.

Food Purchase and Distribution Program will purchase surplus agricul-

tural commodities for distribution to food banks and other nutrition programs. Commodities include fruits, nuts, rice, legumes, beef, pork and milk.

Trade Promotion Program offers assistance in developing new export markets in conjunction with the private sector.

It is expected producers will sign up for these programs at their Farm Service Agency office beginning in September.

Payments will go out between September and the end of harvest, as producers apply and provide FSA with required information.

IN BRIEF

**Rice Tasting Luncheon
Sept. 14 in Cleveland**

The 28th annual Delta Rice Tasting Luncheon, sponsored by Delta Rice Promotions, Inc., will take place Sept. 14 at Delta State University Walter Sillers Coliseum, Cleveland, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased from the Extension office of Bolivar County, Miss., by calling (662) 843-8371, or at the door.

**Fall Flower & Garden
Fest set for Oct 12-13**

The Fall Flower & Garden Fest will be held Oct. 12-13 at the Truck Crops Experiment Station in Crystal Springs, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days.

Food vendors will have food and drinks available.

For more information, contact a MS County Extension Service office, or call (601) 892-3731.

**Great Delta Bear Affair
to take place Oct. 27**

The Great Delta Bear Affair will take place on Oct. 27 in Rolling Fork.

Started as a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Teddy Bear, the event has grown into a celebration of the Delta and its history.

For more information, call (662) 873.6261 or visit www.greatdeltabearaffair.org.

Eighty-five attend Pasture Party in Flora

FLORA, MS—Madison County SWCD hosted its fourth annual Pasture Party soil health seminar on July 12, 2018, at The Gin in Flora.

Eighty-five cattle producers, landowners and others from Leake, Madison, Warren, Yazoo, Holmes, Hinds, Clark and Oktibbeha counties gathered to hear the latest information on grazing lands and soil health.

Celia Miller, Madison Co. SWCD, welcomed participants to the seminar, followed by Jeff Turbville, County Executive Director, Madison Co. Farm Service Agency.

Phillip Archie, District Conservationist with USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Services, provided information on the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, or EQIP.

Ty Jones with Madison County MSU Extension Service introduced guest speaker Cooper Hurst and his wife, Katie Hurst, from Hunt Hill Cattle Company of Woodville, MS.

Booths staffed by representatives from Nutrena, Flora Feed, Cain Cattle Company, NRCS and Mississippi

Cattlemen's Association provided information and were on hand to discuss feed supplies, current issues and available programs to enhance productivity.

The seminar was sponsored by Madison Co. SWCD, MSU Extension Service, Purina, Madison County Farm

Service Agency, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Mississippi Cattlemen's Association, Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission, and SWCDs in the counties of Leake, Hinds, Warren and Yazoo.

— Celia Miller



A speaker makes a presentation at the soil health seminar in Flora.

ABOUT HUNT HILL CATTLE COMPANY, WOODVILLE, MS

Hunt Hill Cattle Company is home to 600 commercial cows that are located on four farms.

Cooper and Katie Hurst retain ownership of their calves through the feedlot, and market them through U.S. Premium Beef's value-based grid.

Beginning in 2008, the Hursts changed their forage program from heavy dependence on hay and commercial fertilizer to a

program that utilizes multi-species cover crops, requiring very little hay and fertilizer.

By eliminating tillage, stockpiling forage, and closely managing grazing, the Hursts have greatly reduced their operating costs.

The resulting improvement in soil health has enhanced forage quality, while greatly increasing organic matter and drought tolerance.



NACD announces poster contest theme for 2019, *Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper*

The NACD Stewardship and Education Committee announces the 2019 Poster Contest and Stewardship Week theme: **"Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper."**

Rules and entry form for the

2019 MACD Poster Contest will be available for download by Sept. 1, 2018, at www.mswcc.ms.gov, select "Current Events," then click on 2019 MACD Poster Contest.

Stone Co. SWCD hosts day camp at Flint Creek

STONE CO.—Thirty students from ages 8-13 attended day camp at Flint Creek Reservoir from July 16-18, 2018.

“We had many hands-on activities with the kids,” Stone Co. SWCD Clerk Jennifer Rickard said.

Some of the presenters included David Rogers and his sheep dogs; Holland Veterinary Hospital; MDOT with their roll-over car, and MSWCC Field Rep Lance Middleton with his snakes.

Kids were introduced to exotic animals when Safari Tails came to visit. Other activities included presentations by MS State Extension Service, and Stone Co. 4-H shooting sports with gun/archery safety.

Campers also enjoyed the waterpark at Flint Creek.

The camp was open to kids in Stone and Perry counties. Stone Co. SWCD partnered with Stone Co. Extension Service for this event.

—Jennifer Rickard



Ivy Overstreet poses with an Orange Bearded Dragon on her head.



MSWCC Field Rep Lance Middleton (arms pictured), who presented snakes at the day camp, supervises closely while Grayson Rickard holds a snake.



MaKayla Rickard holding a chinchilla at day camp.

Small farm demonstration set for Aug. 16

HAZLEHURST — A small farm outdoor demonstration program will be presented on Aug. 16, 2018, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Copiah Co. Fairgrounds, 2040 W. Gallman Rd., Hazlehurst.

Topics include forage and livestock management, USDA programs and services, leasing land

for multiple recreational uses, timber management, farm security and wild hog management.

Preregistration at http://www.naturalresource.msstate.edu/pdfs/hazlehurst_081618.pdf

For more information, call Clifton E. Peters at (601) 572-5378.

Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission

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